

● PRINTER RUSH ●

(PTO ASSISTANCE)

IFW

Application : <u>10/618845</u>	Examiner : <u>Lee</u>	GAU : <u>3673</u>
From : <u>LAS</u>	Location : <u>IDC</u> FMF FDC	Date : <u>7/5/05</u>

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<input type="checkbox"/> 1449	_____	<input type="checkbox"/> Continuing Data
<input type="checkbox"/> IDS	_____	<input type="checkbox"/> Foreign Priority
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<input type="checkbox"/> DRW	_____	
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<input type="checkbox"/> 312	_____	
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[RUSH] MESSAGE: _____

Patent Nos. are missing on page 15, line 14 of the
specification.

Thank you

[XRUSH] RESPONSE: Corrected

INITIALS: PS

10/6/8, 845

having columns 516, pontoons 518, wings 520, tendon connectors 522 and a mooring lines 524, only two of which are shown. The mooring lines 524 include a buoy 526, are attached to the ETLP 500 via guides 528 terminating in winches (not shown) located in the deck section 510 of the ETLP 500 and are anchored to the seabed 506 at an anchor 530. The first position 508 is in proximity of a plurality of tendon anchors 532 having a tendon connector 534 located on the seabed 506.

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[0055] The ETLP 500 also includes a tendon 536 having a tendon anchor connector 538 at its distal end 540 and tendon buoy module 541. The tendon 536 is attached to a cable or wire line 542 connected to the working part (not shown) of the rig 512 so that the tendon 536 can be lowered to one of the tendon anchors 532 for tendon installation. Once lowered to a tendon anchor 532, the tendon anchor connector 538 stabs into the tendon connector 534 associated with the anchor 532 to form an installed tendon. Of course, the stabbing force must be sufficient enough to lock the tendon 536 in place and the connectors 534 and 538 must lock with sufficient rigidity to withstand platform tensioning and normal post installation force fluctuations. ~~Such tendon stabbing systems are described in United States Pat. Nos. 2, incorporated herein by reference.~~

[0056] Looking at Figure 5B, by changing the lengths of the mooring lines 524, the ETLP 500 is repositioned to a second position 544 where the tendon 536 lines up with one of the tendon anchors 532. The cable 542 connecting the tendon 536 to the working part of the rig 512 is then lowered until the tendon anchor connector 538 is stabbed into the anchor 532 with sufficient force to cause the tendon connector 534 of the anchor 532 to lockingly engage the connector 538 of the tendon 536. Looking at Figure 5C, the tendon installation process is repeated by attaching another tendon 536 to the working part of the rig 512, repositioning the ETLP 500 to a third position 546 by adjusting the lengths of the mooring lines 524, and stabbing the tendon 536 into the anchor 532 with sufficient force to cause the tendon connector 534 of the anchor 532 to lockingly engage the connector 538 of the tendon 536.

[0057] After all of the tendons 536 have been installed by the above described repositioning and stabbing process, the ETLP 500 is repositioned to an installation position 548 as shown in Figure 5D. The tendon buoy modules 541 are removed and ETLP 510 is lowered in the water and top tendon connectors 550 are connected to the platform tendon connectors 522. The ETLP 510 is then raised to installation depth tensioning the tendons 536 completing the installation process.

[0058] Thus, the mooring lines associated with the tension leg platforms of this invention are used to winch the free floating TLP or ETLP over the first pre-installed tendon pile with associated seabed connector. The drilling rig is then be used to vertically stack the tendon sections one by one